



DECLARATION OF MINDELO

"DECENT WORK FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT"

Outcomes of the Conference "Agenda Post 2015 on Population and Youth Employment"



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"Decent work for youth development"



Conference Post 2015 Agenda on Population and Youth Employment



Preamble

In the year 2000 the United Nations formulated the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for countries to achieve them by 2015. Currently, world leaders are consulting stakeholders and development partners to create a new Charter called the Post 2015 Development Agenda, where population and youth employment are two fundamental issues in current debate, making young African leaders key players in this new Agenda.

In this context, and under the framework of the Fifth African University of Youth and Development which took place in Mindelo, Cape Verde, young African and African Diaspora leaders, gathered at the Conference "Post-2015 Agenda on Population and Youth Employment" from May 8th to 10th, to discuss advocacy and cooperation strategies to advance the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Conference revealed the concerns of African youth and provided a space for them to be heard and taken into account, as they are the backbone of sustainable development in Africa and the world.

This Conference is part of a broader Post-2015 Agenda consultation, included in the global meetings "The world we want" and "My world" initiatives. These consultations are promoted by the United Nations, as a follow up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio + 20. The Conference contributes to the debate on the MDGs through two fundamental themes: Population and Youth Employment. It is part of the

African Youth Alliance on the Post-2015 Agenda (AYAPA) strategy, follows the African Youth Conference on the Post-2015 Agenda and was launched on the context of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity / African Union.

These themes are two main priorities of the Global Youth Agenda: Population, as a follow up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), conducted globally by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) at the regional level; and youth employment, as one of the top priorities set by leaders of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation Platform, and supported globally by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

We, young leaders, united around the theme of Democracy and Culture of Peace for the African continent, founded in the spirit of the African Youth Charter and the principles of the African Decade of Youth promoted by the African Union, want to share through this magnum declaration, our recommendations on topics related to the young population, primarily on:

- **Youth employment**
- **Good governance**
- **Education**
- **Environmental sustainability**

Youth employment

The issue of employment is of great concern for young people from around the world, and particularly from the African continent. Inspired by the Declaration of Malabo "Creating Employment for Accelerating Youth Development and Empowerment" for the autonomy of youth, conference participants conclude and recommend the following:

To the Governments

- Promote a legal framework that creates decent employment and guarantees minimum security standards and dignity for public and private jobs.
- Enact policies that facilitate social entrepreneurship and create social enterprises to gratify those with innovative ideas and entrepreneurial initiatives.
- Strengthen training programs that facilitate labour market entrance for young people.
- Promote technical and vocational education, and expand the number of schools of arts and sciences.
- Improve policies to facilitate access to banking credit for youth, in order to foster entrepreneurship and the creation of small businesses.
- Adapt labour laws to meet current job market requirements and ensure economic growth and poverty reduction.

- Establish an official minimum wage in all African countries.
- Regulate and universalize curriculum based internships to facilitate the transition from the educational system to the labour market.
- Promote the culture of responsibility and work ethics.
- Increase the involvement of universities and vocational schools in the transition process into the labour market.
- Incorporate entrepreneurship in the educational curriculum.
- Facilitate mobility of young people to areas with higher employment opportunities.
- Reinforce auditing inspections of labour contracts.

To the social partners, employers and trade unions

- Comply with the labour laws.
- Strengthen the social dialogue between employers and employees.
- Reinforce participation of trade unions and youth associations in combating work exploitation.
- Comply with tax regulations in order for governments to invest in social policies.
- Conduct a competitive, open and transparent recruitment and selection process, based on merit.
- Foster accountability among employers and unions to guarantee decent youth employment and safeguard their rights.

To the Youth

- Invest in specialized professional training.
- Adapt a culture of work and effort to have a dignified life and contribute to the development of the community, nation, continent and world.
- Be proactive and flexible in job search.
- Bet in social entrepreneurship.
- Strengthen social, civic and political participation.
- Become involved and participate in youth organizations that increase links of association and cooperation to protect youth interests.
- Exercise self-improvement, self-development and self-criticism.
- Engage in self-training when faced with inactivity.

To the international community

- Eliminate child labour and any kind of exploitation of minors.
- Establish conventions that guarantee decent work for all, paying particular attention to youth.
- Monitor and support public employment policies of Governments.
- Harmonize labour market information systems to facilitate formulation, execution and evaluation of employment policies.
- Guarantee a favorable international environment for social entrepreneurship and decent youth employment.

- Facilitate international mobility to create more employment opportunities for youth.
- Expand social protection for youth and their families to reduce their vulnerability, in particular for populations at risk.
- Create a competitive global market based on merits, regardless of origin, culture, ethnicity or gender.
- Promote exchanges of success stories and best practices related to youth employment among African countries.
- Encourage cooperation between countries so that workers can practice their professions abroad under the same legal conditions.

Governance

The efficient and effective management of resources across countries depends heavily on the good governance. In this sense, good governance is the starting point for the achievement of all drafted goals. Most countries are far away from accomplishing all the MDGs due to Government mismanagement. Thus, we propose Good Governance to be addressed in the Post-2015 Agenda. During the Conference, young people from different continents discussed this topic and they highlight the following recommendations for the Post 2015:

- Strengthen institutional capacity-building through training programs.
- Develop democratic citizenship to increase youth involvement in the decision-making process.
- Promote sharing leadership responsibility between governments and civil society.
- Adapt international policies to match local context and reality.
- Establish mechanisms for the implementation and enforcement of laws.
- Manage the external debt efficiently.
- Combat drug trafficking and money laundering by enforcing anti-corruption laws.
- Guarantee transparency in account reporting through the creation of an agency for this purpose.
- Establish mechanisms to promote active youth participation.
- Decentralize public and administrative powers.

Education

Education as a basis for the development of any country presents various deficiencies at the continent level, representing a real barrier for the development of African nations. During the conference 'Post-2015 Agenda on Population and Youth Employment', participants conclude and recommend the following:

- Promote policies that provide free access to universal education from pre-school to secondary education.
- Train the teachers for the current challenges of the global world.

- Introduce new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the educational system.
- Introduce new teaching methodologies based on interactive education, in particular Global Education and Non Formal Education.
- Introduce a system to integrate education, training and employment.
- Foster the involvement of youth associations in curriculum development.
- Reinforce language skills in schools.
- Adapt an educational system that allows greater mobility of qualified people within countries in Africa and other continents.
- Include active citizenship in school curriculum.
- Incite involvement of educational community in the teaching-learning process.

Environmental sustainability

We believe that at the global level there is a lot to do in the environmental field. Therefore, we propose a set of measures and recommendations that will raise awareness of the importance of environment conservation for the integral development of countries:

- Sensitize and educate the population about environmental conservation.
- Involve youth in making decisions that concerns the environment.
- Include subjects on environmental education at all levels of the school system.
- Implement solid waste recycling projects.
- Promote the use of renewable energy.
- Propose that world leaders review the treaties of conservation of the environment.
- Respect and protect the biodiversity of the fauna and the flora.
- Take environmental issues into account when making policies, and present practical solutions.

YOUTH, brought together at the “Post-2015 Agenda on Population and Youth Employment” Conference, expressed the need for greater involvement and participation of African youth in the decision-making process. To achieve this, we advocate for the creation of a specialized entity for youth development and empowerment under the patronage of the African Union Commission. This entity will serve to catalyze the youth contributions to the development of the continent; it will support Governments in the youth public policy making and implementation; it will promote comprehensive training and exchanges between young people from different African countries; and it will research issues that affect African youth: the **African Youth Watch**.

At Mindelo, May 10th, 2013

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